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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,778	08/08/2001	Michael L. Boroson	83120RLO	4335

7590 11/22/2002
Thomas H. Close
Patent Legal Staff
Eastman Kodak Company
343 State Street
Rochester, NY 14650-2201

EXAMINER

LAWRENCE JR, FRANK M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1724

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DATE MAILED: 11/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/924,778

Applicant(s)

BOROSON ET AL.

Examiner

Frank M. Lawrence

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-22, 24-33 and 35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 23 and 34 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 14, 15, 17-21, 24-26, 28-32 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Belding et al. (5,685,897; col. 4, lines 26-36; col. 5, lines 36-41; col. 7, lines 26-34; claim 17).
3. Belding et al. ('897) teach a desiccant package comprising a desiccant paper made up of a desiccant, fibers, and a binder for retention of the desiccant on and within the fiber shafts in a paper matrix. The desiccant can include a zeolite, silica gel, or halogen salts having a particle size ranging from 0.1 to 50 microns. The fibers and binder form an adhesive for supporting the desiccant in a moisture-permeable container as defined by the instant specification, and will enhance the absorption rate by holding a higher level of desiccant. The fiber can be a cellulose acetate and the desiccant can comprise 5-70 wt. % of the article with the remainder being fibers and binder. The container is capable of being placed in a sealed enclosure as recited in the claims and the water vapor transmission rate of the binder and fibers will be inherently be greater than the rate recited in the instant claims because a porous paper is formed. The desiccant is capable of maintaining a moisture absorption rate and providing a decreased humidity level of less than 100 ppm when the starting humidity level is near or less than 100 ppm. Note that the

intended use of the desiccant container that is recited in the instant claims has not been given any patentable weight because it fails to further limit the structure of the article being claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 6, 16 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belding et al. ('897) in view of EP 0776147 (col. 5, lines 37-57).

6. Belding et al. ('897) disclose all of the limitations of the claims except that the halogen salt is a metal halide. EP '147 discloses a desiccant container that can comprise calcium chloride. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use a metal halide as the halogen salt of Belding et al. ('897) in order to provide a well-known, inexpensive and common desiccant material that is capable of absorbing moisture from atmospheric air.

7. Claims 12, 22 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belding et al. ('897) in view of Levinson et al. (5,384,357; abstract; col. 2, lines 49-56).

8. Belding et al. ('897) discloses all of the limitations of the claims except that the binder is radiation curable. Levinson et al. ('357) disclose radiation curable silicone binders that can be used as a binder for a desiccant such as a zeolite. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a radiation curable binder in the desiccant structure of Belding et al. ('897) in order to provide a binder that allows accelerated manufacturing by speeding up the binding process.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 13, 23 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The use of a radiation-curable photoresist composition as a binder in a desiccant comprising particles having an average size range of 0.001-0.1 microns and can be used to provide a high rate of water absorption within a sealed enclosure, is not taught, disclosed or suggested in a single reference or a combination of references in the prior art of record. The closest prior art to Levinson et al. ('357) discloses the use of radiation curable binders for a zeolite desiccant but fails to suggest a motivation for using a radiation curable photoresist composition.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The additional references listed on the enclosed PTO-892 form disclose microparticulate desiccants.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank M. Lawrence whose telephone number is 703-305-0585. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-5:00; alternate Fridays 7:00-4:00.

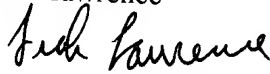
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Simmons can be reached on 703-308-1972. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

Frank Lawrence



Patent Examiner 11-1302

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November 13, 2002